

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 074224
ORIGIN EA-09

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 074224

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:ICRC, PFOR, US, VN, UN

SUBJECT: ICRC INTEREST IN POSSIBLE U.S. AID TO VIETNAM

REF: GENEVA 2438

1. WE BELIEVE YOU CAN BEST INFORM HOCHE ON THE RESULTS OF THE WOODCOCK COMMISSION'S VISIT BY PROVIDING HIM A COPY OF THE COMMISSION'S REPORT. THE REPORT WENT OUT ON THE WIRELESS FILE MARCH 23. DEPARTMENT OFFICER (SIEVERTS IN D/HA) HAS ALSO MAILED A COPY OF THE REPORT TO HOCHE WITH ADDITIONAL INFO ON HIS OTHER QUESTIONS. THE WIRELESS FILE ALSO CARRIED THE TEXT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE THE PRESIDENT AND MR. WOODCOCK HELD AFTER THEIR MARCH 23 MEETING. IN ADDITION, QUESTIONS 4 AND 6 IN THE PRESIDENT'S MARCH 24
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PRESS CONFERENCE ON FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC ISSUES ALSO RELATE TO THE WOODCOCK COMMISSION AND FUTURE U.S.-VIETNAM RELATIONS.

2. FOR HOCHE'S FURTHER INFORMATION, "OPERATION REVERSE-BABYLIFT" DID NOT ARISE IN THE COMMISSION'S DISCUSSIONS, ALTHOUGH AS INDICATED IN REPORT SRV AUTHORITIES DID NOTE

IN GENERAL TERMS THEIR WILLINGNESS TO LET PROPERLY-DOCUMENTED PERSONS RETURN TO VIETNAM AFTER APPROPRIATE REVIEW OF THEIR CASES.

3. WHILE WE WILL KEEP IN MIND HOCKE'S OFFER OF THE ICRC AS A POSSIBLE CHANNEL FOR FOOD AID, OUR PRESENT LEGISLATION PROHIBITS ANY SUCH AID TO VIETNAM. THE PRESIDENT INDICATED AT HIS MARCH 24 PRESS CONFERENCE THE PRESENT U.S. POSITION ON AID AND TRADE WITH VIETNAM.

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Message Attributes

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